

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 30, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing as the Maryland Congressional Delegation to express our strong support for Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's request for a federal declaration of a major disaster for the State of Maryland due to the effects of Tropical Depression Ida, which previously formed as a Category 4 hurricane that struck the Louisiana coastline. Specifically, we support Governor Hogan's requests that a major disaster declaration for Individual Assistance be issued for Anne Arundel and Cecil Counties in Maryland, and for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to be made available to all jurisdictions in Maryland.

Congress is preparing to enact an emergency supplementary appropriations package in response to Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 storm that struck Louisiana on August 29 and later produced heavy flooding in parts of the northeast including New York and New Jersey. In Maryland, Anne Arundel County, Cecil County, and the City of Annapolis bore the brunt of Tropical Depression Ida. These jurisdictions each declared a state of emergency on September 2. According to the National Weather Service, an EF-2 tornado with peak wind estimates of 125 miles per hour (mph) affected southern Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis on September 1, causing substantial structural damage to homes and businesses. Preliminary damage assessments in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis showed damage to 120 residences. The City of Annapolis Community and Economic Development Division estimates that approximately \$3.84 million was lost from business revenue and destroyed inventory as a result of Ida.

In response, Anne Arundel County operated a family assistance center for two days in collaboration with state and local partners to provide information on housing, financial, food assistance, and counseling support to affected residents. The City of Annapolis provided hotel rooms to displaced residents, opened an emergency shelter and a community resource center, and facilitated debris removal.

In Cecil County, flash flooding associated with Tropical Depression Ida required the evacuation of 63 residents from the Mill Creek Manor Mobile Home Park. The county has coordinated with nongovernmental partners to provide non-congregate shelter and food assistance to displaced families. The majority of displaced residents speak Spanish as their primary language, do not carry insurance coverage, and lost most of their possessions in the flood.

Individual Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments conducted in both Anne Arundel and Cecil Counties on September 13 found numerous destroyed and damaged structures. These assessments support the need for the requested declaration and assistance.

We agree with Governor Hogan that supplementary federal assistance is necessary and warranted under the Stafford Act. Therefore, we urge you to expeditiously review and grant the Governor's requests. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

/s/ John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

/s/ Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone
Member of Congress

Cc: MaryAnn Tierney, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region III